

**Amendments to the specification:**

*Rewrite page 4, 5<sup>th</sup> complete paragraph:*

**Figure 4** depicts details of the assay principle taught by the present invention for the detection of c-fos mRNA, including sequences 19 cF-DO (SEQ ID NO: 19), 20 cF-DO (SEQ ID NO: 20), 6 cf-CO (SEQ ID NO: 6), and 19 cF-FQO (SEQ ID NO: 44).

*Rewrite page 14, paragraph 1:*

An even more detailed example is given in figure 4: The c-fos mRNA is labeled with two detection oligonucleotides (19 cF-DO (SEQ ID NO: 19) and 20 cF-DO (SEQ ID NO: 20); for numbering of c-Fos oligonucleotides see Table 1). A biotinylated capture oligonucleotide (6 cf-CO) (SEQ ID NO: 6) serves for binding to the bead (bead not depicted). In addition (lower right corner), the quenching of surplus DO (19 cF-DO) (SEQ ID NO: 19) by its specific FQO (19 cF-FQO) (SEQ ID NO: 44) is demonstrated.